



Accreditation of Testing Laboratories And Certification Organizations

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Accreditation

Procedure by which an authoritative body gives formal recognition that a body (laboratory/ inspection agency) or person (signatory) is competent to carry out specific tasks (scope) - ISO/IEC Guide 2: 1996

International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission (ISO/IEC)

Criteria:

- ISO/IEC-17020 for Inspection Agencies**
- 17024 for Personnel Certification**
- 17025 for Testing and Calibration Laboratories**
- ISO/IEC Guide 65 for Product Certifiers**

By and large accreditation is voluntary, although many regulators have started demanding use of accredited entities



Accreditation (cont'd.)

- ✚ Recognizes the technical competence of organization staff
- ✚ Assures the client that the results are technically valid
- ✚ Endorses the quality management system
- ✚ Ensures better support in the event of legal challenge
- ✚ Assures the client that the procedures are technically valid
- ✚ Saves money by getting it right the first time

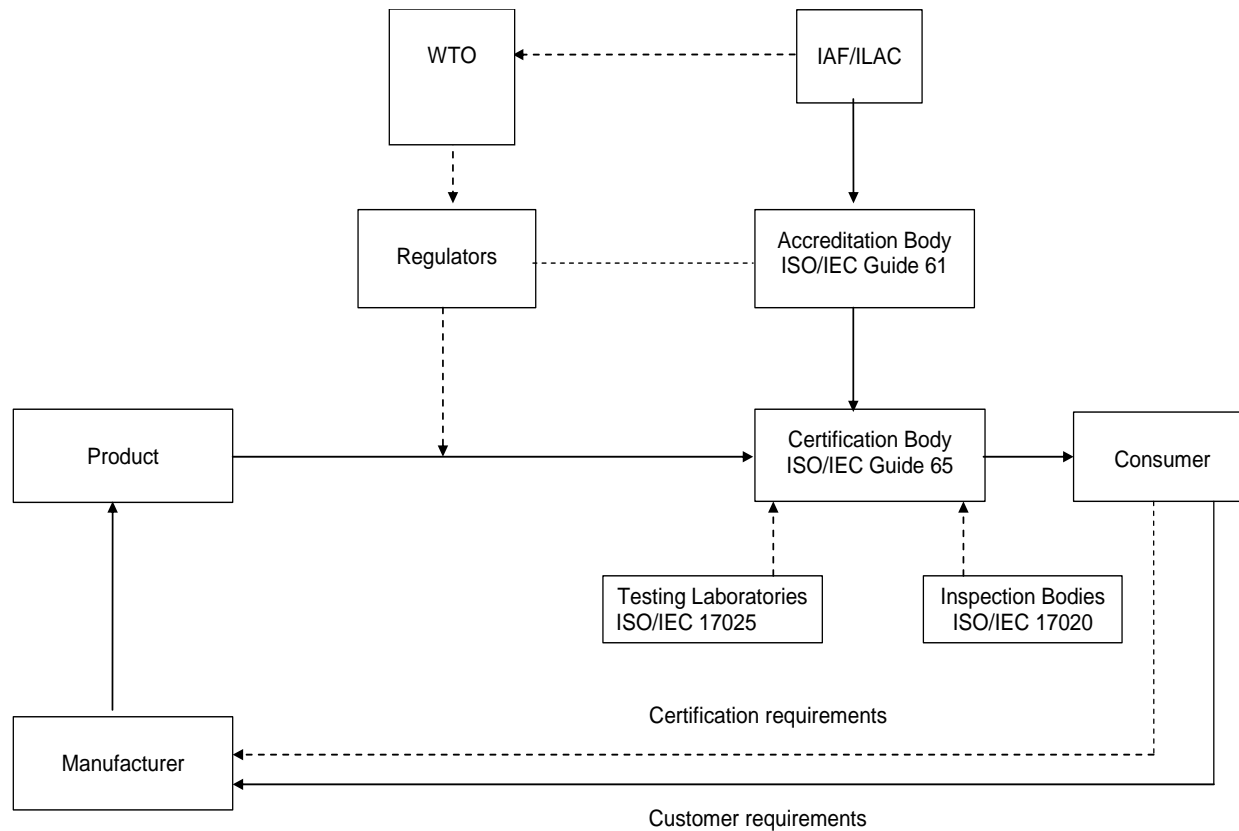


Standards for Accreditation Bodies (ABs)

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| ✚ Laboratory ABs
1993 | ISO/IEC Guide 58: |
| ✚ Inspection Body ABs
1998 | ISO/IEC TR 17010: |
| ✚ Certification Body ABs
1996 | ISO/IEC Guide 61: |

All to be replaced by ISO/IEC 17011: in 2004

Product Certification Process – Who are the players?





Development of Laboratory Accreditation

Table 1 — The Development of Laboratory Accreditation

ACCREDITATION SCHEME	COUNTRY	DATE	ACCREDITATION SCHEME	COUNTRY	DATE
War-time test-house standards	Australia	1943	A2LA	USA	1978
NATA	Australia	1946	RNE	France	1979
TELARC	New Zealand	1973	CSCP (SCC)	Canada	1980
STP	Denmark	1973	NAMAS	UK	1981
ICBO	USA	1975	HOKLAS	Hong Kong	1985
NVLAP	USA	1976	EA	European Cooperation	1987
ILAC	International Conference	1977	APLAC	Asia Pacific Cooperation	1992
			NACLA	USA	1998

✚ **Currently IAS**

H **now UKAS**